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Community Service for Grief and Healing

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Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on October 20, 2020

Location: Hendricks Chapel

Remarks: Community Service for Grief and Healing

The Chancellor was introduced by Rev. Brian Konkol, Dean of Hendricks Chapel

Good evening. Thank you, Dean Konkol. And thank you to everyone who is joining us this evening.

This has been a hard year for our community. But the hardest part of this year has been this past week with the tragic loss of two young lives.

On behalf of all of us at Syracuse University, I offer my deepest condolences to the parents, families and friends, professors, and classmates of Trevor Daley Pierce and Jack Lundin.

Trevor and Jack were both just finding their way on the Syracuse University campus as first-year students. I know from talking to many here that both had already made an immediate impact on those who knew them.

In the last month, we lost two other long-time members of our community. Over the weekend, we lost Sherri Taylor, a member of the Newhouse faculty for over 30 years. A few weeks ago, Bridget Lawson, who had been with Syracuse for 20 years, also passed. Both Sherri and Bridget are deeply missed by their families, friends and colleagues.

Each of these deaths have shaken me, as they have many of you. Life seems so fragile these days, and at times so unfair.

Our University has experienced loss before. In these tough times, when we are at our best, we come together to reflect and honor the lives of those who are gone. We grieve the loss of their contributions and unrealized potential. We celebrate the profound impact they had on those around them.

As we reflect on these lives, let us lift each other up. Let us show compassion for those who are hurting. Let us extend kindness, grace and understanding to those who need it in this moment.

This University is defined by people who step up at the hardest times to support each other. Those people include so many people in our Divisions of Enrollment and in BFAS who have been there for support this past week. They are too many to name, from RA's to counselors, to public safety folks to our deans. I thank them all. I also thank each of our Chaplains at Hendricks who have offered in this time:

Melvin Baker

Devon Bartholomew

Kate Bartholomew

Rhonda Chester

Joanne Cooke

Jeremiah Deep

Amir Duric

Joel Goldstein

Jeff Kane

Jay Koshy

Gail Riina

Bonnie Shoultz

Gerry Waterman

May God bless Trevor, Jack, Sherri and Bridget. And may each of you joining us today find peace and comfort in this time of loss.

Thank you.

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